July 12, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BOARDMAN
MR. BOSEN
MR. NICHOLS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10-30-90 BY SP1 [redacted]

In conference with the Attorney General this afternoon I briefed him generally as to the developments of the last twenty-four hours in the Weinberger kidnaping case.

I took occasion to tell the Attorney General that I wanted to again urge that decision as to whether the FBI should assume jurisdiction be placed upon the Criminal Division and no longer be continued as the responsibility of the FBI in view of the attitude of Assistant Attorney General Olney and the critical memorandums which he has addressed to this Bureau.

WARREN

The Attorney General stated that he had had a long conference with Mr. Olney and that he believed and hoped that he had impressed upon Mr. Olney the situation and the various aspects thereof which made the writing of such memorandums undesirable.

The Attorney General stated he was contemplating addressing a memorandum to Mr. Olney and myself to the effect that he had reviewed the entire situation and in view of the record which the FBI had made in handling kidnaping cases and at the same time in maintaining cordial and cooperative relationships with the state and local authorities, the FBI should continue to make the decisions as to accepting jurisdiction in kidnaping cases. The Attorney General stated that he contemplated in such memorandum to point out the complex aspects of the problem and the facets which are involved, namely, public relations, relationships with the state and local authorities, and the over-all problem of public opinion as to the confidence which the FBI has established with the public. He stated that he thought that he would include in such memorandum the thought that once the decision is made by the FBI, it is the responsibility of all officials of the Department to support that decision unless they consider the same to be wrong and then, of course, there is always the [redacted]

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opportunity of bringing the matter directly to the Attorney General's attention without recourse to the writing of memorandums which might reflect upon any branch of the Department in the minds of persons desirous of being critical of the Department or any of its branches.

I told the Attorney General that I had reached the end of patience in standing for the captious and highly critical memorandums of Mr. Olney and that I was at a complete loss to understand what purpose Mr. Olney thought was gained by writing his most recent memorandum in which he practically charged the FBI with being responsible for the Weinberger kidnaping. I called the Attorney General's attention again to the fact that the FBI does not on its own motion issue the releases but that the same are always cleared with Mr. Mullen. The Attorney General stated that he certainly agreed with me that the recent memorandum from Mr. Olney was entirely unwarranted and could not be construed in any manner other than as being highly critical of the FBI.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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